

Attorney Docket No.: SJ-0005
Inventors: DANKS ET AL.
Serial No.: 09/595,682
Filing Date: JUNE 16, 2000
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (previously canceled).

E Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for sensitizing tumor cells to a chemotherapeutic prodrug capable of being cleaved by a carboxylesterase comprising transfecting selected tumor cells with a composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide encoding a carboxylesterase ~~capable of metabolizing a chemotherapeutic prodrug and inactive metabolites thereof to active drug, and a disease-specific responsive promoter~~ which cleaves a chemotherapeutic prodrug wherein said carboxylesterase is operably linked to a promoter that directs expression of said carboxylesterase in said tumor cells, and wherein expression of the carboxylesterase renders the tumor cells more ~~susceptible~~ sensitive to the cytotoxic effect of said chemotherapeutic prodrug.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting tumor cell growth comprising:

(A) sensitizing tumor cells in accordance with the method of claim 12; and

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(B) contacting said sensitized tumor cells with a said chemotherapeutic prodrug so that tumor cell growth is inhibited.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the chemotherapeutic prodrug is selected from a group consisting of CPT-11 and APC.

Claims 15-17 (previously canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting tumor growth in a patient comprising administering to a patient a composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide encoding a carboxylesterase capable of ~~metabolizing~~ cleaving a chemotherapeutic prodrug and inactive metabolites thereof to active drug, ~~a disease-specific responsive promoter, wherein said~~ carboxylesterase is operably linked to a promoter that directs expression of said carboxylesterase in a tumor, wherein the dosage of said composition is one determined to produce the longest delay of recurrent disease ~~and wherein the composition is administered intratumorally or intravenously.~~

Claims 19-21 (previously canceled).

Claim 22 (new): The method according to claim 12 wherein the carboxylesterase is selected from the group consisting of rabbit polynucleotide and human intestinal polynucleotide.

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Claim 23 (new): The method according to claim 12 wherein the carboxylesterase comprises a rabbit polynucleotide.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to claim 12 wherein the carboxylesterase comprises a human intestinal polynucleotide.

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Claim 25 (new): The method according to claim 12 wherein the method is performed ex vivo.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to claim 12 wherein the carboxylesterase is delivered by an adenoviral vector.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to claim 13 wherein the chemotherapeutic prodrug is a camptothecin.

Claim 28 (new): The method according to claim 18 wherein the composition is administered intratumorally or intravenously.

Claim 29 (new): The method according to claim 18 wherein the prodrug is administered intravenously.
